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(b) if the answer be in the affirmative, whether it is proposed to be constructed jointly by the District Boards of Ramnad and Tinnevely or by a private body?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The matter is in the hands of the Railway Board. The District Boards of Tinnevely and Ramnad have declared their inability to construct the line.

Mr. P. K. S. A. ARUMUGA NADAR:—“With regard to (a), may I know at what stage the matter stands?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“It stands exactly as stated in the answer. The Government have recommended it to the Railway Board.”

Third-class passengers' shed in the Nandyal railway station.

228 Q.—Mr. K. SARABHA REDDI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the third-class passengers' shed in the Nandyal railway station is far away from the booking office; and

(b) if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing for one close to the booking office?

A.—(a) The Government have no information.

(b) The matter is not one which is under the control of the Local Government.

Railway freight on grains.

229 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD MUSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and South Indian Railway (the feeding Railway of Madras) have increased their freight rates on grains;

(b) if so, on what ground;

(c) the percentage of increase as compared with the years of 1911 and 1912?

A.—The Government have no information.

Khan Bahadur KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB:—“Will the Government be pleased to call for the information?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—“I am afraid I cannot undertake to do that. It has been pointed out on more than one occasion that the local Government have no control over the Railways. The Railways are under the Government of India and any question connected with the management of railways ought to be addressed to the Government of India in the Legislative Assembly or the other House.”

Transport of grain.

230 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD MUSA SAIT: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state the volume of traffic in grain carried to and from Madras,

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Rayapuram, Salt Cottours and Beach railway stations both by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and South Indian Railway during the years 1922-23 and 1911-12 and also their earnings?

A.—The Government have no information.

Survey and Settlement.

Settlement operations in the Trichinopoly district.

231 Q.—Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government have received the preliminary scheme report of settlement operations for the Trichinopoly district; and
- (b) if the answer is in the negative, when it is due?

A.—(a) & (b) The scheme report has been received and was published on the 13th January 1924

Collection of survey charges in Wynad.

232 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government have received a memorial from the landowners of Wynad regarding the collection of survey charges;
- (b) whether the Collector of Malabar has expressed any, and, if so, what opinion on that memorial;
- (c) whether, since the last settlement in Wynad, agricultural lands have been relinquished or sold for arrears of revenue, and, if so, what is the extent of the lands thus sold or relinquished;
- (d) what was the area of the agricultural land under occupation at the time of the last settlement in Wynad and what is the extent now;
- (e) whether there has been any and, if so, what fall in the amount of the annual land revenue in Wynad since the last settlement; and
- (f) what is the amount of survey charges proposed to be collected from the landowners of Wynad now and what is the amount of annual land revenue at present?

A.—(a) The Secretary, Wynad Janmi Mahajana Sangham, has submitted direct to Government a copy of the memorial prepared by the sangham.

(b) The Collector's remarks have not yet been received.

(c), (d), (e) & (f) The Government have no information.

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to call for the information required under clauses (c), (d), (e), and (f)?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I think it would be wise to wait and see the remarks of the Collector on the memorial in question. The Government may then call for the information."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to ask the Collector to send up his report urgently?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Does the hon. Member suggest that this is a matter of very great urgency?"